

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-33 were previously pending in the instant application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 20, 21 and 25-32 have been rejected, Claims 5, 8-19 and 22-24 have been withdrawn and Claim 33 is allowed. By way of the above amendments, Claims 1, 6, 12, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28 and 31 have been amended and Claims 5, 8-11, 15, 18 and 22-24 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, and 25-33 are now pending in this application.

Within the Office Action Claim 12-14, 16, 17 and 19 have been withdrawn for consideration for not being readable on the elected species. By way of the above amendment, the independent Claim 12 has been amended to properly read on the elected species. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that Claims 12-14, 16, 17 and 19 be reentered into the prosecution of this Application.

Objection to Claims:

Within the Office Action Claims 6, 26, 28 and 31 have been objected to for a number of informalities. By way of the above amendment Claims 6, 26, 28 and 31 have been amended to correct these informalities.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 4 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,604,951 to Shipp (hereafter "Shipp"). The rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 31 as being anticipated by Shipp is considered moot in view of the above amendments.

Specifically, the independent Claim 1 now recites a device comprising a cleaning head. The cleaning head of the device comprises a first region with a first squeegee element with elongated walls that protrude to form an elongated wiping edge configured to treat a working surface, the first region being configured to move in a first direction and a second region with bristles configured to simultaneously treat the working surface, wherein the second region is configured to move separately from the first region in a second direction that is different from the first direction.

The independent Claim 31 now recites an electric toothbrush with a cleaning head. The cleaning head of the electric toothbrush comprises a first region with a continuous squeegee element that encircles a portion of the first region, wherein the first region is coupled to a drive mechanism for automatically rotating or oscillating the first region and bristles protruding from a second region that is separate from the first region, wherein the bristles surround at least a portion of the continuous squeegee element, and wherein the bristles are configured to rotate or oscillate.

Clearly, Shipp teaches a manual toothbrush with a prophy-cup structure surrounded by bristles. However, Shipp fail to teach or suggest a squeegee, bristles or the combination thereof that are configured to move automatically or regions with the squeegee and the bristles that configured to move separately or in different directions, such as recited in the independent Claim 1. Further, Shipp fails to teach or suggest an electric toothbrush with a continuous squeegee element that encircles a portion of the first region that is coupled to a drive mechanism for automatically rotating or oscillating the first region and bristle protruding from a second region that is separate from the first region, such as recited in the independent Claim 31. For all the reasons described above, both the independent Claims 1 and 31 are now allowable over the teaching of Shipp.

Claim 4 is dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Shipp. Accordingly, Claim 4 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 26-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by document No. GB 2,371,217 to McDougall (hereafter "McDougall"). The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 26-32 as being anticipated by McDougall is considered moot in view of the above amendments.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that moving independently can be accomplished by proper hand manipulation. From the specification of the present application it is clear what is meant by move independently or independently movable. It is stated that "[T]o move independently, herein, means that one of the regions is stationary while another region moves or that the regions move **separately** from one or more of the other, but does not necessarily mean that the regions are not synchronized to move with a similar or the same motion or that the regions are not coupled to the same mechanism to drive the motion of the regions." [Specification, page 3, lines 8-13] Thus it is clear that Applicant is **not** referring to artificial

boundaries, such as opposite sides of a cleaning head but rather distinct and separate regions or elements of the cleaning head that move with respect to each other.

It is also clear that the device of McDougall only includes a single moving region or section that includes all of the wiping elements and bristles protruding therefrom. The wiping elements and the bristles in the device of McDougall all move with the same motion, in the same direction, at that same time and **can not** be constituted as moving separately or independently of each other, as the terms are used and defined in the present application. However, to further advance the prosecution of this application, where appropriate the claims have been amended to recite regions that move separately, move independently and separately or move relative to each other to further emphasize the distinction between the claimed invention and devices with a single moving region or section.

Further it should be noted that Claim 1 recites a first region being configured to move in a first direction and a second region being configured to move separately from the first region in a second direction that is different from the first direction. These features are clearly neither taught or suggested by McDougall. For the reasons described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of McDougall.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of McDougall. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6, 7 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 26 recites a device comprising a cleaning head. The cleaning head of the device comprises a first region with a first squeegee element with an elongated wiping edge and elongated walls and bristles configured to treat a working surface a second region that is separate from the first region with bristles configured to simultaneously treat the working surface and means to couple the cleaning head to a motorized handle that automatically moves the first region relative to the second region. As described above, McDougall, fails to teach a first region with a squeegee, wherein the first region is separate from a second region with bristle, wherein the first region is configured automatically move reactive to the second region. For at least these reason, the independent Claim 26 is allowable over the teaching of McDougall.

Claim 27 is dependent on the independent Claim 26. As described above, the independent Claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of McDougall. Accordingly, Claim 26 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 28 is directed to device comprising a cleaning head. The cleaning head of the device comprises a first region with a first squeegee element comprising a continuous wiping edge configured to treat a working surface, the first region being configured to move and a second region with a second squeegee element configured to simultaneously treat the working surface, wherein at least one of the first region and the second region is configured to automatically move independently and separately of the other of the first region and the second region, while the cleaning head is coupled to a motorized handle. As described above, McDougall fails to teach two or more regions each with a squeegee element, wherein the two or more regions are configured to automatically move independently and separately of each other. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 28 is allowable over the teaching of McDougall.

Claim 29 and 30 are both dependent on the independent Claim 28. As described above, the independent Claim 28 is allowable over the teachings of McDougall. Accordingly, Claims 29 and 30 are also both allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 31 is directed to an electric toothbrush with a cleaning head. The cleaning head of the electric toothbrush comprises a first region with a continuous squeegee element that encircles a portion of the first region, wherein the first region is coupled to a drive mechanism for automatically rotating or oscillating the first region and bristles protruding from a second region that is separate from the first region, wherein the bristle surround at least a portion of the continuous squeegee element, and wherein the second region is configured to rotate or oscillate. As described above, McDougall fails to teach a first region with continuous squeegee element and a second region with bristle that is separate from the first region, wherein the first and second region are configured to rotate or oscillate. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 31 is allowable over the teaching of McDougall.

Claim 32 is dependent on the independent Claim 31. As described above, the independent Claim 31 is allowable over the teachings of McDougall. Accordingly, Claim 32 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,349,442 to Cohen (hereafter "Cohen"). The rejection of Claim 20 as being anticipated Cohen is considered moot in view of the above amendments.

Specifically, the independent Claim 20 now recites a cleaning device comprising a detachable cleaning head configured to detachably couple to a motorized handle, the cleaning

head comprising a first section configured to automatically rotate or oscillate while coupled to the motorized handle and a second section surrounding the first section configured to automatically rotate or oscillate while coupled to the motorized handle, wherein the second section is configured to automatically rotate or oscillate at a rate or direction that is different from that of the first section, and wherein both the first and the second sections comprise one or more squeegee wiping elements. Cohen fails to teach or suggest a first and a second section that each have a squeegee and are each configured to automatically rotate or oscillate at a rate or direction that is different from that of the other of the first section or second section. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teaching of Cohen.

Within the Office Action, Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,032,313 to Tsang (hereafter “Tsang”). The rejection of Claim 25 as being anticipated by Tsang is considered moot in view of the above amendments.

The independent Claim 25 is now recites a device comprising a cleaning head comprising a first wiping region and a second wiping region, wherein the first wiping region surrounds the second wiping region and the first wiping region and the second wiping section are configured to automatically and separately move from each other, wherein at least one of the first wiping region and the second wiping region comprises a squeegee element with elongated walls that protrude to form a top wiping edge and at least one of the first wiping region and the second wiping region comprises bristles. Tsang fails to teach sections that are configured to move automatically and separately from each other and wherein at least one of the section comprises a squeegee and at least one of the sections comprises bristles. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teaching of Tsang.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

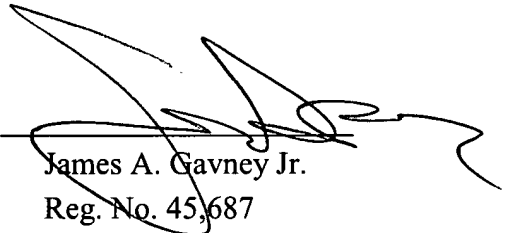
Within the Office Action, Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen in view McDougall.

Claim 21 is dependent on the independent Claim 20. As described above, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Cohen. Accordingly, Claim 21 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, and 25-33 are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 8/24/2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR§ 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

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